

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS – PLYMOUTH DISTRICT  
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY



TIMOTHY J. CRUZ  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

MAIN OFFICE:  
32 Belmont Street  
Brockton, MA 02301  
Tel: (508) 584-8120  
Fax: (508) 586-3578

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**AUGUST 21, 2015**

**CONTACT: BETH STONE**  
**(508) 584-8120**

**PEMBROKE MAN FOUND GUILTY OF DOUSING TEENS  
WITH GASOLINE, THREATENING TO SET THEM ON FIRE**

**BROCKTON** – A jury has convicted a Pembroke man for dousing two teenagers with gasoline and then threatening to set them on fire, Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz announced today.

A jury deliberated over 3 ½ hours today before finding William E. Rearick (DOB: 06/03/67) guilty of two counts each of Assault with Intent to Murder, Assault and Battery with a Deadly Weapon and Assault and Battery. Rearick was also found guilty of five counts of Assault with a Deadly Weapon and one count of Intimidation of a Witness. Brockton Superior Court Judge C.J. Moriarty postponed sentencing until Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. Rearick's bail was revoked and he was taken into custody pending a sentencing hearing.

"This man terrorized these women and then threatened the lives of first responders on scene," DA Cruz said. "The jury got it right today and I hope with this verdict these women can find some justice and begin the healing process."

On January 9, 2013 at 3 p.m., Pembroke Police responded to a 911 call at 39 Birch Street and found an adult female and two teenaged girls distressed and screaming and crying. Upon entering the home, police immediately smelled a strong odor of gasoline and the smell intensified as police went downstairs. They located Rearick standing in the hallway carrying a propane tank in his left hand and a one-gallon gas container in his right hand and he immediately retreated to a basement room. Rearick sat in front of police and repeatedly threatened to light a cigarette lighter and open the propane tank valve in front of police and fire officials. Rearick continued to do this several more times until a family member arrived at the home and was able to use sign language to speak with Rearick, who is deaf. Police arrested him without incident.

At the trial, which began on Monday, jurors heard from investigators who questioned the teen victims. They said their mother left for work that day after a fight with Rearick and one of the victims attempted to lock him out of the home. Rearick re-entered the home, sat down in the kitchen with a propane tank and a gas container and said "I am going to kill myself." One of the girls tried to call 911 but Rearick pushed her down and hung up the phone. Rearick then began

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS – PLYMOUTH DISTRICT  
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY



**TIMOTHY J. CRUZ**  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

**MAIN OFFICE:**  
32 Belmont Street  
Brockton, MA 02301  
Tel: (508) 584-8120  
Fax: (508) 586-3578

pouring gasoline on the both girls, and all around the kitchen. The two girls physically struggled with Rearick until one girl was able to get to her room to call 911. At this point, the girls' mother returned home and the three escaped the house just prior to emergency personnel arriving on the scene. Rearick remained in the house leading to the confrontation with the Pembroke Police and Fire Department, who were eventually able to diffuse the situation.

Assistant District Attorney Richard Linehan prosecuted the case, which was investigated by Pembroke Police.

###